A CHRISTIAN NEWSLETTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.
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"CALL TO PENITENCE AND PRAYER FOR THE NATIONS" ISSUED BY NATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As pressures were mounting in the Middle East crisis, on July 18 the President of the National Council of Churches, Edwin T. Dahlberg, issued a "Call to Penitence and Prayer for the Nations." In view of its content he telegraphed copies to President Eisenhower, Secretary Dulles, Ambassador Lodge, United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and Associates Ralph Bunche and Andrew Cordier.

In his messages to these leaders Dr. Dahlberg said: "I SEND YOU A COPY TO LET YOU KNOW SOME OF THE CONCERNS, QUESTIONS AND SPIRIT OF PRAYER FOR YOU AND OTHER LEADERS OF GOVERNMENTS AND OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED AMONG OUR CONSTITUENTS ACROSS THE LAND."

The statement was in keeping with previously adopted National Council policies and stressed, among other points, the need for full information to be given to citizens in a democracy and for governments to "make maximum use of the United Nations." The full text follows:

"We all feel deep concern as the leaders of our own and other nations are making decisions which seriously affect the peace of the world. We appeal to all to make this a time of penitence and prayer. We trust that full information will be freely given to all citizens as befits a democracy, and that our people will weigh all issues with solemn judgment in developing enlightened public opinion. In these crucial days let us keep a spirit of calm and a readiness to seek to do God's will.

"Let all of us in penitence pray that mankind may humbly seek divine guidance for peacefully resolving the present crisis and for developing constructive steps toward solutions of the complex problems of the Middle East.

"Let us pray that all may exercise restraint, and refrain from impulsive acts which might lead to the total destruction of mankind.

"Let us pray for divine guidance for the leaders of our own and other lands and of the United Nations.

"Let us pray that governments may make maximum use of the United Nations and all reconciling ways and means of peaceful settlement and peaceful change.

"Above all, let us pray and work for a world of justice, freedom, and order, in keeping with the will of God."

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WORLD ORDER SUNDAY - OCTOBER 19, 1958
THEME: "CHRISTIANS ARE CONCERNED FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES"

MESSAGE ON MID-EAST CONCERN SENT TO UN DELEGATES BY C.C.I.A. OFFICER

Expressing international Christian concern about the crisis in the Middle East, on July 21, the Executive Secretary of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Dr. Richard M. Fagley, sent a message to certain leaders at the United Nations, including the Secretary General and the delegates to the UN of the governments of France, India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. A copy was also sent to U.S. Secretary of State Dulles.

The message was framed in consultation with C.C.I.A. officers in the Geneva, London and New York offices; with officers of the C.C.I.A.'s parent bodies, the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council; and with representatives of national church organizations in various countries, including officers of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The statement was drafted after the question of a summit meeting had been precipitated and while decisions regarding it were in the first stages of formulation. The text of the telegram follows:

> "ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CHURCHES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, I STRESS THE SOLEMN URGENCY THAT IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE STEPS BE TAKEN TO PREVENT A DEEPENING OF THE CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. ALL CHANNELS OF CONSULTATION THAT ARE OPEN SHOULD BE UTILIZED INCLUDING THE AVAILABLE PROCEDURES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, A POSSIBLE MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE WITHIN THE U.N. FRAMEWORK, AS WELL AS THE NORMAL AVENUES OF DIPLOMACY."

WORK OF UNITED NATIONS PRAISED BY PRESIDENT EISENHOWER IN MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Background information on basic attitudes and policies on the relationship of the U.S.A. to the UN has particular value now, in view of current proceedings and proposals for action within the UN framework. Such insights are furnished in the annual message to Congress on U.S. participation in the UN sent by President Eisenhower on June 26.

The President told Congress that the United Nations had compiled a solid record of achievements in 1957 in handling a series of grave issues which threatened world peace.

The President lauded positions taken in the UN by the majority of nations against opposition by the Soviet Union on several issues, including disarmament matters and further reports and votes in the UN concerning the 1956 uprising for freedom in Hungary.

The work of the Secretary General of the UN, Dag Hammarskjold, during 1957 received special tribute in the President's Report. This takes on particular significance in light of the tremendous burdens of responsibility resting upon the Secretary General in current efforts to find resolution for a number of complexities in the Middle East crisis.

It is of interest to note that in the current diplomatic maneuvering concerning a possible Summit Conference, at this writing, France is pressing for a meeting outside the UN Security Council, not ruling out preliminary Security Council procedures in setting up a conference; the United Kingdom is more closely paralleling the position of the United States which is pressing for the use of UN channels; to this Russia has agreed.

In a reaffirmation of confidence in the United Nations, President Eisenhower said in his Report to Congress:

"By its accomplishments in 1957, the United Nations again justified our often expressed faith in it as an effective instrument for preserving the peace and improving the well-being of mankind. We shall continue to give it our vigorous support."

CONGRESS ACTS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

The Mutual Security Program: The Administration originally requested the sum of $3,942,100,000 for this program for fiscal year 1959, including $1,800,000,000 for Military Aid, $825,000,000 for Defense Support, $625,000,000 for the Development Loan Fund, $163,500,000 for Technical Cooperation ($142,000,000 for the U.S. Bilateral program; $20,000,000 for the UN multilateral program including U.S. participation in the new SPUR - Special Projects for Underdeveloped Regions; $1,500,000 for the Organization of American States program), and $106,600,000 for other international cooperation.

Congress in its first round on this program authorized $3,675,500,000 which meant that appropriations could amount to that much if they subsequently desired.

In the second round, for appropriations, a determined drive in the House, led by the Appropriations Subcommittee, under the chairmanship of Rep. Otto E. Passman (D.,La.), cut $872,000,000 from the amount requested by the President.

The Senate is expected to appropriate considerably more than the House, although not the full amount requested by the Administration. The bills as passed by the Senate and the House go to a conference committee which is expected to recommend amounts generally nearer the original requests than the House figures, for final action by the Senate and the House.

In the passage of this measure through Congress, the National Council of Churches arranged testimony before Committees through its Departments of International Affairs and the Church and Economic Life, and in addition, sent in statements for the record through the Department of United Church Women. Those testifying were: Before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Professor Waldo Chamberlin; Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Charles P. Taft; House Appropriations Committee, Henry C. Koch; Senate Appropriations Committee, Charles P. Taft. The Department of International Affairs has communicated information on the progress of this legislation to the constituent denominations and councils of churches, while the Department of Christian World Relations of United Church Women has rendered this service for councils of church women. Reports have been received of responsible action at the state and local levels in communicating with Congress and the Administration on this issue.

The Reciprocal Trade Agreements Act: The Administration requested a five-year extension of this Act, with power for the President to negotiate tariff reductions of 25% over a five year period, and power to help domestic industries hurt by tariff reductions.

The House voted a five year renewal, with provision that the President's actions on escape clauses may be over-ridden by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress.

The Senate voted only a three-year renewal, and defeated a move to deprive the President of authority to reject recommendations of the U.S. Tariff Commission unless Congress should first agree by a majority vote of both houses.

This is, at present writing, before a conference committee, expected to compromise the recommendations for passage by House and Senate in a bill authorizing renewal for four years, and in general keeping the more liberal provisions of the House version.

During passage of this measure through Congress, the National Council of Churches testified before Committees through its Departments of International Affairs, the Church and Economic Life, and United Church Women. Those testifying included: Before the House Ways and Means Committee, Roy Blough of Columbia University and Mrs. Esther W. Hymer of United Church Women; before the Senate Finance Committee, Roy Blough, with a statement submitted by United Church Women. An information program for education and action among

denominations, state and local councils of churches and of church women was also carried on for this issue, with reports of action being made from various sections of the country.

An International Development Association proposal by Senator A.S. Mike Monroney (D.,Okla.) is to be studied by the U.S. Government in cooperation with other Governments, on basis of a resolution passed by the Senate on July 23 by a roll-call vote of 62-25. This action was recommended by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, with general Committee support among both Democrats and Republicans, except for Senators Homer Capehart (R., Ind.) and John W. Bricker (R., O.) signing a minority report. The proposal for IDA would make use of soft currencies now owed to the U.S.A. in loans for longer periods at lower rates of interest, supplementing loans by the World Bank, of which it would be an affiliate. The Committee said: "It would be no panacea. It promises no cheap and easy solution to the hard problems of economic development. It would, however, place one more valuable tool in the hands of those who cherish national political independence." Senator Monroney declared: "It is more than ever important that nations devoted to liberty and individual dignity work together to help newly developing countries meet the challenge of economic growth under a free system. An international development association could be one further instrument of mutual effort through which free nations could cooperate to raise living standards and expand beneficial trade."

Alaskan statehood, on which legislative efforts have been noted from time to time in these columns, is approaching realization, with a favorable vote by the United States Congress, the President's signature, and predicted favorable action by vote of the people of Alaska themselves. Among other things this may mean, incidentally, is that churchmen in Alaska will now be invited to send a state delegation to participate in the Fifth World Order Study Conference, to be held November 18-21, 1958, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Atomic Energy legislation of two kinds, in international relations, has been before Congress: On the military side, has been the issue of whether and how much atomic information and actual weaponry should be furnished to allies. The Administration proposed the sharing of rather full secret information and weapons components. The Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, it is reliably reported, had planned to have only executive hearings -- no public hearings -- on such a crucial matter. A vigorous effort by Rep. Chet Holifield (D., Calif.), supported by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D., N.M.), and non-governmental organizations including religious, scientific and civic groups, resulted in public hearings, and in some modification of the bill. It was finally more carefully drawn, and more limited in scope, thus to some degree slowing development of the "fourth power problem" (referred to by some as the "nth power problem"), or the spread of atomic military capability to a fourth and other nations.

On the peaceful side of atomic energy, there has been delay both in the Administration and in Congress in approving U.S. cooperation with Euratom, the European Atomic Energy Community. It has been proposed that the U.S. enter into agreements not simply with single nations, as in the past, but with a community of nations; this has tended to make possible inspection by foreign authority, and to enhance supra-national community in Europe. The agreements would enable the U.S. to join in a research program, to supply technical information and aid, and to furnish refined fuels for reactors to be built in Europe. These elements would facilitate the production of one million kilowatts of electrical power by 1963 as a step toward the ultimate 15 million kilowatt nuclear goal set by Euratom. In view of the series of delays, some are now questioning whether sufficient legislative action can be taken in this Session. Such delay would be detrimental to the development of Euratom and to U.S. relationships with those nations and others in their views as to U.S. interest in peaceful development of atomic energy.

(Continued on Page 8)

INTEREST IN AFRICA INCREASING AMONG CHURCHES AND OTHERS

A visit to the United States by Kwame Nkrumah, Prime Minister of Ghana, who has been called "the leader of African nationalism," his addressing the U.S. Senate and House, and consultation with President Eisenhower, during the week of July 20, highlight the growing U.S. interest in Africa. His visit here followed correspondence with the President on Ghana's need for "large-scale aid and expanding trade."

Another evidence of growing interest in Africa was the recent American Assembly at Arden House on the subject: "The United States and Africa." Subsequent study sessions are being held in different localities across the United States. Reports of this are available from the American Assembly, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y., at a cost of $1.00 per copy. It could be used with profit by churches studying international affairs, and those concentrating on the overseas mission theme next year.

The Continent of Africa has in this decade come alive in the revolutionary forces of social and economic change as new nations emerge from colonialism and seek the right to participate in the affairs of the world community. The importance of Africa in the Christian church is demonstrated by the efforts to train competent African clergy and lay leaders to carry the responsibilities of the churches during an era in which Africans are seeking their freedom from white domination and control, while other religious and political ideologies are competing for African allegiance. Several Pan-Africa conferences have been held recently. Those dramatizing political issues have had most attention in newspapers. But two important church conferences in Africa in recent months promise long-range significance:

An All-African Church Conference, the first ever held, met at Ibadan, Nigeria, to discuss "The Church and Changing Africa." It was called by the National Christian Council of Nigeria and was presided over by its chairman, Sir Francis Ibiam. Two hundred delegates and observers from 21 African and 20 non-African countries discussed the relation of the church to economic, political and cultural life, youth and family life, Christian marriage, and missionary methods and opportunities. Alan Paton of South Africa, author of Cry, The Beloved Country, stressed the role of the churches in fighting segregation. The question of land ownership in various sections of Africa was cited as a troublesome source of interracial tension. The needs were emphasized for a strong, indigenous clergy able to apply Christianity in the local culture context; for Christian leadership in political and social life; for church-sponsored programs with guidance for youth and strengthening of the family; for giving women a larger role and a proper place in church and social life; for studying migrant workers' problems; and for continued church support of attempts to raise the economic and cultural standards of workers. Christian unity was called for particularly in face of the southward sweep of Islam. On the colonial issue a resolution said: "We give thanks to God for the statesmanlike policy of those governments which have already allowed the dependent territories in Africa to move forward toward self-determination and self-government."

Prior to Ibadan, a 12-day Assembly of the International Missionary Council, at Achimoto, Ghana, attracted 200 delegates from the missionary organizations of National Christian Councils, observers, and consultants, on the theme: "The Christian Mission At This Hour." A vote approved, in principle, integration of the I.M.C. with the World Council of Churches; 58 Yes, 7 No. The General Secretary announced that John D. Rockefeller, Jr., through the Sealantic Fund, offered $2,000,000 to the I.M.C. for a "Theological Education Fund" provided mission boards in the U.S.A. pledge a similar amount. Nine boards in varying amounts have met the challenge. The money will be used for grants to some 20 seminaries around the world based on location, present work, and development plans.

ROLE OF UNITED NATIONS ASSESSED BY HON. ERNEST A. GROSS IN LETTER TO N.Y. TIMES

Saying that the UN is able to cope with crisis only as it is charged with strength, the honorable Ernest A. Gross wrote a letter to the Editor of the New York Times, published on Sunday, July 27, 1958. Mr. Gross was formerly Assistant Secretary of State and Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. He is Chairman of the Department of International Affairs of the National Council of Churches. The letter follows:

"Warnings that the United Nations faces its decisive test in the Middle East and laments about frustration brought about by Soviet vetoes raise the question: Who or what is on trial in these fateful debates?

"Is it the assemblage of sovereign states working through a mechanism never intended to serve as a central authority to police the internal stability of nations? Or is it a set of policies which are being tested in the very debates and negotiations which the forum is designed to provide?

"Assailing the United Nations for the dilemmas of its member states is in itself a symptom of frustration. This is particularly true of those who in the past have strongly condemned the United Nations for being a "super-state" and now attack it for not acting like one.

"Out of the painful ignorance of fact which most of us share and the complexity of issues which is equally painful, several basic principles emerge which are durable and will outlast the present emergency.

"The first is that the happy hunting grounds of communism are the millions who are more concerned about the next meal than the next aggression. Much can be said for or against military alliances such as the Baghdad Pact. But the fact remains that the restless societies are more likely to be made Communist-proof by developing their water power rather than their fire power.

"The second principle which flows from this is that the United Nations cannot cope with crisis unless it is charged with strength. And this it seems to me means carrying out -- through the United Nations to the maximum practicable extent -- constructive programs in the economic human rights and social fields.

"We can hardly expect the U.N. to serve as a rallying ground for issues high on our national agenda, if we minimize its use in matters high on the agenda of most of the rest of mankind. Accordingly, when leaders meet at the summit or elsewhere they could serve no higher purpose than to invigorate existing international machinery in these fields.

"Thirdly, unilateral action may sometimes be considered necessary. But it is to be remembered that although Article 51 of the Charter reserves a right it does not state a program of action.

"The self-defense exception to the Charter is common to all codes of conduct and it is necessary to survival, both of men and of nations. When invoked in either case, however, it is subject to the old maxim: "Self-defense begins when necessity begins and ends when necessity ends."

"Unless Article 51 is regarded merely as a necessary exception to the rule of law, the door is open to grave abuse, particularly in a world menaced by a prowling imperialism. In the ordered domestic society there is a legal process for determining the strict limits of unilateral action. But the comparative international anarchy affords no such sanction and in the last analysis an informed self-discipline is the only barrier to general chaos.

"This points to the need for the utmost candor in disclosure of facts which enter into decision."

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN REPRESENTED ABROAD BY AMBASSADOR OF UNDERSTANDING AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS

At the 12th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Geneva, Switzerland, in March, Esther W. (Mrs. Howard G.) Hymer, Director of Christian World Relations for United Church Women, served as their representative. She presented to the U.S. delegate, Lenora Hahn, positions supported by U.C.W. to help governments work effectively towards solving the many problems in advancing the position of women around the world.

She urged Mrs. Hahn to support the continuation of the work of the Commission at yearly meetings, recognizing that much remains to be accomplished until women gain full status. She urged greater effort for political participation for all women without discrimination on grounds of sex, race, or nationality, so the full public influence of women in every country may be realized. She suggested more seminars for women, especially in the newer countries, and greater use of the non-governmental organizations so they can help train local lay leaders, which is essential if countries are to gain full independence and work as partners with others rather than as dependents either in political or economic alignment. Church women have expressed great concern over equal access to education, remembering that the pioneering work in many countries has been done by the churches making opportunities available for women; often these have been the only opportunities for women to obtain an education.

Mrs. Hymer emphasized the policies of church women, as concerned with the whole pattern of life and well-being of all women. She reported convictions that opportunity should be shared with women in less developed areas, and that as children of God we have a responsibility to each other to make possible a better life for all.

During the 3-week session, there were discussions of advancement of political, economic, educational and legal rights, and of the ways in which the rights of women may be advanced through education and through projects within the communities, especially in the less developed countries and trust territories. Of special interest were the problems of the working mother and ways in which she may be assisted in carrying on her home responsibilities and yet participate in the economic life of her country. There was a report of the first seminar for Asian women on civic responsibility and ways in which they may make a full contribution to the life of their communities.

The work of the Commission is significant because it has highlighted the need for greater opportunity for women. Through its work women have gained the vote in 33 countries. Now it is necessary to find ways to help women use their new opportunities to help their countries build towards a peaceful world community.

While Mrs. Hymer was in Geneva, she served as consultant for a seminar planned by the World Council of Churches and the World Y.W.C.A., participated in by men and women from many countries. The seminar discussed not only the work of the Status of Women Commission, but especially freedom of marriage, and its relation to family patterns, and freedom of work with especial reference to working women with family responsibilities. The conversation was directed towards finding ways to bring these concerns of the Commission to the constituents of the various organizations and denominations.

She also attended a meeting of representatives of international women's organizations on ways organizations may cooperate with governments, especially in newer countries, to develop local leadership and find common interests in program emphasis.

Mrs. Hymer returned by way of Brussels conferring with those planning the program of the Protestant Pavilion at the World's Fair. On her return, Mrs. Hymer made a full report of her consultations to the General Department of United Church Women of the National Council of Churches, of which Dorothy S. (Mrs. W. Murdoch) McLeod is Executive Director. The insights and observations of Mrs. Hymer continue to be helpful to U.C.W. and to the N.C.C. in the further development of policies and programs.

(Continued from Page 4 - CONGRESS ACTS...)

A United Nations Police Force: Hearings have been announced by the Subcommittee on International Organizations and Movements, Rep. A.S.J. Carnahan (D., Mo.), Chairman, within the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. There is already a favorable resolution passed by the Senate on this matter. While it is possibly too late for final action on this in the current session of Congress, the new hearings indicate some possible forward movement on this issue in the next Session.

Review of U.S. Foreign Policy: Many factors have been building up, prior to the current Mid-East crisis, to bring about a major review of U.S. foreign policy in the Senate. Now, with added impetus, the Foreign Relations Committee has spear-headed action in the Senate for an extensive study. An amount of $300,000 has been appropriated for this purpose, with an additional $150,000 for particular study of U.S. foreign policy in relation to Latin America.

Civilian Space Agency: Congress passed and the President signed in July a measure which creates a civilian space agency, "The Aeronautics and Space Administration." The President has absolute control over the new eight-man advisory council, which will consult with him on space matters. The agency will take over special programs now handled by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. Under this new arrangement, the Defense Department will retain control over "activities peculiar to or primarily associated with development of weapons systems, military operations, or defense of the United States." The President will have final authority in any disputes between the Defense Department and the administrators of the new agency. President Eisenhower in signing the bill on July 29, noted: "This legislation is an historic step, further equipping the United States for leadership in the space age."

Immigration Legislation: On the status of Hungarian refugees, Congress passed and the President signed the Feighan Bill - HR 11033. It grants to the 32,000 Hungarians admitted on a parole basis the opportunity to register with the Immigration Service as aliens admitted for permanent residence, with their residence computed from time of entry, if they can meet the restrictions of the Walter-McCarran Act. There are indications that those who cannot meet the immigration requirements will be continued on a parole basis.

Hearings are under way on HR 13311, which provides for judicial review of orders of deportation. Passage of this bill at this session of Congress is doubtful.

The Senate and House passed HR 11874, allowing persons to adjust status who entered the U. S. prior to 1940. Slight differences may be adjusted in a final vote.

Rep. Walter (D., Pa.) introduced HR 13451; passed by the House and sent to the Senate, it would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act, providing for adjustment of status for certain non-immigrants who have maintained lawful status and have available non-quota or quota visas at times of application, and of approval of adjustment of status.

SEE IN AUGUST ISSUE: ADVANCE REPORT ON FIFTH WORLD ORDER STUDY CONFERENCE ON: "CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITY ON A CHANGING PLANET" CLEVELAND, OHIO - NOVEMBER 18-21

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